November 6, 2007 - LES MÉLODÎNES AT PLACE DES ARTS - Let music brighten the grey days of autumn

***Les Mélodînes* continue at Place des Arts**
Thursdays afternoons: November 15, 22 and 29 from 12:10 to 12:50

Montreal, November 6, 2007 – The fifth season of ***LES MÉLODÎNES*** presented by **Pro Musica** and **Place des Arts** is continuing on Thursday, November 15, 22 and 29, from 12:10 to 12:50, with three concerts to brighten up your lunch hour and banish the greys of autumn. The musical menu planned by Monique Dubé and Pierre Rolland should please all palettes: the rollicking klezmer music of **Kleztory** on November 15; piano sonatas by Beethoven and Rachmaninoff performed by **Diego Rodriguez** on November 22; and contemporary music by Canadian composers performed by violist **Jutta Puchhammer** and pianist **Paul Stewart** on November 29. So bring your lunch to these weekly ***MÉLODÎNES*** at **Place des Arts**, and let these talented artists treat you to some delectable music.

Originating in the medieval villages of Eastern Europe, klezmer music was performed by itinerant Jewish musicians at feasts and marriages. After reaching America through the massive Jewish immigrations of the 19th and 20th centuries, it incorporated elements of jazz and swing. Since the 1980s, there has been an unprecedented surge in klezmer's popularity worldwide. Like the distinctive, syncopated sounds of this hybrid music, the five musicians of **Kleztory** form a rich mosaic of cultures, musical training and tastes. With their striking arrangements that combine innovation with tradition, they are reaching an ever-growing public. **Kleztory** has three albums to its credit and has performed with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and the I Musici de Montréal Chamber Orchestra. For a sample of their infectious energy, come to the **Piano nobile** at Place des Arts on **Thursday, November 15**.

On Thursday, November 22, again from 12:10 to 12:50, the Spanish-born pianist **Diego Rodriguez** will rouse audiences at the **Studio-théâtre** of **Place des Arts** with his masterly interpretations of Beethoven's *Sonata No. 30 in E major* and Rachmaninoff's *Sonata No. 2 in B-flat major*. A genuine virtuoso, **Diego Rodriguez** studied in Spain and the United States under several masters of the piano. He is currently studying for his doctorate in music at the Université de Montréal. His numerous prizes at international competitions include the Wideman Piano Competition in Shreveport, Louisiana, and the Sorantin International Concerto Competition in San Antonio, Texas. Highly appreciated as an accompanist, **Diego Rodriguez** is also active as a soloist and chamber musician in both his native country and Quebec.

Musical discoveries can be made at the concert on **November 29**, as Viennese-born violist **Jutta Puchhammer** and Nova Scotian pianist **Paul Stewart** perform contemporary music by Canadian composers José Evangelista, Denis Gougeon, Isabelle Panneton and Alan Belkin. A resident of Quebec since 1987, **Jutta Puchhammer** has firmly established herself on both the national and international stage. She has made numerous tours in Europe and Japan. She is also teaching at the Université de Montréal and gives master class at the Juilliard School of New York. In June 2006 she presided over the 34th International Viola Congress in Montreal, where she was presented the Maurice Raley Awardfor her contributions to the international viola community. **Paul Stewart** has performed as a soloist with the symphony orchestras of Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, and has given recitals throughout the world. He has also accompanied such artists as Maureen Forrester and Jessye Norman. Since 2002, he has taught piano at the Université de Montréal.

Whatever your musical preferences, ***LES MÉLODÎNES*** will brighten up your autumn!

A co-production of the Société Pro Musica and Place des Arts.

Where: Piano nobile and Studio-théâtre, Place des Arts
175 St. Catherine St. West
When: Thursdays from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m.
Admission: $8 (taxes included) – Bring your lunch!
Reservations: Place des Arts Box Office at 514-842-2112 / 1-866-842-2112 or laplacedesarts.com
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